

Drifting - August 2021

Science has shown us that at the beginning of time the earth was all one land mass - Pangea. Over time a process of continental drift has separated the land into distinct areas - continents!

Though the fundamentals were taken on the journey: rock, water, vegetation etc, this movement has created vastly different natural landscapes and environments, as the repositioning of these vast land masses have had other external pressures placed upon them. This has created places of danger - earthquake zones; arctic tundra; volcanic activity. These things look amazing on TV, but damage the fundamental building blocks of the earth. The drift has affected the fundamentals so they are no-longer what they were.

From the early days of the church we have seen the message of Jesus be taken further and farther afield. Like with the continents this spread maintained the fundamentals of the Gospel, such as: God is love; Jesus died for our sins; repent and believe; the community of the church. As the continents are visually different so are many of our expressions of worship: singing; silent; traditional; alternative. The style of church doesn't really matter, but the fundamentals do.

Some church drift merely exhibits external changes, but sometimes fundamental values and teachings can change which can become problematic and even dangerous. This is true for individual believers too.

Heb. 2.1 says, *'Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away'*.

During the past 18 months since the onset of COVID, for many church-goers their whole routines and habits have been turned upside-down. Church in pyjamas has become a regular thing, rather than an alternative All Age special service. We have lost contact with the church community the very people with whom we are called to walk together in faith - warts and all. As we stop attending to this fundamental of our faith, then others can go missing too. We find ourselves drifting in our faith.

As a new term begins, this feels the right time to start afresh in remembering those wonderful foundations of our faith. It is a time to re-remember our priorities as Christians, and re-order our lives to avoid drifting away by paying attention to our foundations of the Gospel message.

How do we do that?

Re-connect with people.

As church we are called to be a group of believers gathered around Jesus. At this time, there are many reasons for being concerned about returning to in-person worship but you

can still return to the community. You can share what is going on with you, the good and the bad.

Back to Basics

Even if you can't make it on a Sunday, *how can you engage with God still in what you are doing? How can you re-connect with our Lord and saviour, whose arms are always reaching out to us? Pray; worship and read God's word. With these things in place the fundamentals will come back into view, and more importantly the joy of knowing God.*

